

## Letter from Alexander Graham Bell to L. T. Stanley, November 12, 1875, with transcript

Boston University, Nov. 12th, /75. My dear Sir,

You have rightly translated the meaning of my postal card.

Your letter is too important a one to be answered hurriedly.

I have been kept so busy with the opening of a Normal Training-School for Articulation Teachers of the Deaf and Dumb — of which I am Principal, and with other professional work, that I have been unable to give as much attention to your letter as it deserves.

You are right in supposing my method of Autographic Telegraphy to be based upon Caselli's. It is more strictly a development of Meyer's Autograph Telegraph — which however is itself a modification of Caselli's.

For some months past I have been experimenting in order to substitute ordinary paper for the metallic foil — and a conducting for a non-conducting ink — but I must confess with somewhat unsatisfactory results.

I do not suppose that in ordinary Autographic systems it makes much difference which plan is adopted so far as the — but with mine it does . A method such as that you propose is to me a great desideration.

I think that it will be to our mutual advantage to compare notes and I shall be glad to hear further from you.

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I find — and no doubt you have found so too — 2 that in this subject there is a great difference between theory and practise. Your idea must strike every one at once as very simple and beautiful — if it is practicable .

The method I have found most practicable so far — although I have been at work upon your idea — is to write upon a metallic foil with a non-conducting ink — and then to reverse the effect upon the main-line by means of a special apparatus, placed in a local circuit.

In this way the main circuit is made when the style rests upon the non-conducting ink — and broken when it rests upon the metallic foil.

I admit at once that this plan is not nearly so simple as writing upon a non-conducting surface with a metallic ink — but so far as my experiments have been carried it is more practicable.

I have consulted with my partners in regard to your communication — and I am authorized to say — that it will be to our advantage to adopt your method if it is practicable .

Whatever you may choose to tell us of your plan — will be considered as private and confidential and no use will be made of it unless we conclude some arrangement.

I am, dear sir, Yours sincerely A. Graham Bell. (Professor of Vocal Physiology in the Boston University) L. T. Stanley Esq., 533 Main St., Kansas City, Mo.